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Response to Off. Action mailed 06/02/2003

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for utilization with a straight edge wooden board for leveling of uncured concrete by a single user, the apparatus comprising:

a first engagement member comprising

a first frame composed of steel, the first frame attached to the straight edge wooden board, the first frame having a top plate with a first plate extending downward approximately 2.5 inches from a first edge of the top plate, a second plate extending downward 2.5 inches from a second edge of the top plate, the first plate having a first aperture therethrough,

a first adjustable handle bracket attached to an exterior surface of the top plate, the first adjustable handle bracket comprising a base, a fixed socket and a moveable threaded socket capable of 360 degrees of movement,

a first fastening bolt disposed through a threaded nut and the first aperture of the first plate for securing the first engagement member to the straight edge wooden board, and

a first cylindrical elongated handle having a first end threadingly engaged to the moveable threaded socket of the first adjustable handle bracket and second end with a grip thereon, the first cylindrical elongated handle having a length ranging from 12 to 36 inches; and

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a second engagement member comprising

a second frame composed of steel, the second frame attached to the straight edge wooden board, the second frame having a top plate with a first plate extending downward 2.5 inches from a first edge of the top plate and a second plate extending downward 2.5 inches from a second edge of the top plate, the first plate having a first aperture therethrough,

a second adjustable handle bracket attached to an exterior surface of the top plate of the second frame, the second adjustable handle bracket comprising a base, a fixed socket and a moveable threaded socket capable of 360 degrees of movement,

a second fastening bolt disposed through the first aperture of the first plate for securing the second engagement member to the straight edge wooden board, and

a second cylindrical elongated handle having a first end threadingly engaged to the moveable threaded socket of the first adjustable handle bracket and second end with a grip thereon, the second cylindrical elongated handle having a length of ranging from 12 to 36 inches;

wherein the first engagement member and the second engagement member are both easily attachable and removable from the straight edge wooden board, and wherein the first and second engagement members are positioned an appropriate distance from each other on the straight edge wooden board to fit the user.

11 (Original). The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the first plate of the first frame has a second aperture therethrough and the first plate of the second frame has a second aperture therethrough, the first engagement member further comprising a second fastening bolt disposed

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through a threaded nut and the second aperture of the first plate of the first frame, and the second engagement member further comprising a second fastening bolt disposed through a threaded nut and the second aperture of the first plate of the second frame.

Claims 12-13 (Canceled)

14 (Original). The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein each of the top plate, first plate and second plate of each of the first frame and the second frame have a thickness ranging from 0.10 inch to 0.25 inch.

Claim 15 (Original). The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the distance between the first plate and the second plate of each of the first frame and the second frame ranges from 1.5 inches to 2.0 inches.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). A combination for leveling of uncured concrete by a single user, the combination comprising:

a straight edge 2X4 wooden board;

a first engagement member comprising

a first frame composed of steel, the first frame attached to the straight edge 2X4 wooden board, the first frame having a top plate with a first plate extending downward approximately 2.5 inches from a first edge of the top plate, a second plate extending downward 2.5 inches from a second edge of the top plate, the first plate having a first aperture therethrough,

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a first adjustable handle bracket attached to an exterior surface of the top plate, the first adjustable handle bracket comprising a base, a fixed socket and a moveable threaded socket capable of 360 degrees of movement,

a first fastening bolt disposed through a threaded nut and the first aperture of the first plate for securing the first engagement member to the straight edge 2X4 wooden board, and

a first cylindrical elongated handle having a first end threadingly engaged to the moveable threaded socket of the first adjustable handle bracket and second end with a grip thereon, the first cylindrical elongated handle having a length of ranging from 12 to 36 inches; and

a second engagement member comprising

a second frame composed of steel, the second frame attached to the straight edge 2X4 wooden board, the second frame having a top plate with a first plate extending downward 2.5 inches from a first edge of the top plate and a second plate extending downward 2.5 inches from a second edge of the top plate, the first plate having a first aperture therethrough,

a second adjustable handle bracket attached to an exterior surface of the top plate of the second frame, the first adjustable handle bracket comprising a base, a fixed socket and a moveable threaded socket capable of 360 degrees of movement,

a second fastening bolt disposed through the first aperture of the first plate for securing the second engagement member to the straight edge 2X4 wooden board, and

a second cylindrical elongated handle having a first end threadingly engaged to the moveable threaded socket of the first adjustable handle bracket and second end with a grip

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thereon, the second cylindrical elongated handle having a length of ranging from 12 to 36 inches;

wherein the first engagement member and the second engagement member are both easily attachable and removable from the straight edge wooden board, and wherein the first and second engagement members are positioned an appropriate distance from each other on the straight edge wooden board to fit the user.